IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A titanium dioxide powder, having:

a rutile content of 80% or more~~,~~;

a BET specific surface area of from 30 to 100 m^2/g ~~or more~~; and

a particle size distribution (SPAN) of 3.3 or less.

Claim 2 (Original): The titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the rutile content is 85% or more.

Claim 3 (Original): The titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, obtained by a gaseous phase method using titanium tetrachloride as a raw material.

Claim 4 (Original): The titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, obtained by reacting titanium tetrachloride, oxygen gas, hydrogen gas, and steam in a gaseous phase.

Claim 5 (Original): The titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, obtained by reacting titanium tetrachloride, oxygen gas, hydrogen gas, and steam in a gaseous phase after preheating.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A method for producing a titanium dioxide powder comprising reacting a titanium tetrachloride gas, oxygen gas, hydrogen gas, and steam in a gas phase, characterized by supplying the steam in an amount equal to or greater than a chemically equivalent amount necessary for oxidizing all of the titanium tetrachloride gas.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 6, wherein the steam is supplied in an amount of 100 to 2,000 l per 1 l of titanium tetrachloride gas.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 6, wherein the titanium tetrachloride, oxygen gas, hydrogen gas, and steam are reacted in a gaseous phase after preheating.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 6, wherein the titanium oxide powder has a BET specific surface area of 30 m^2/g or more.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 6, wherein the reaction is carried out at 750-950°C and the titanium oxide powder obtained has a rutile content of 80% or more.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 6, wherein the reaction is carried out at 450-700°C and the titanium oxide powder obtained has a rutile content of 20% or more.